



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

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SACATON MAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR SHOOTING A MAN ON GILA RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION

PHOENIX – Jerel Drake Lewis, 28, of Sacaton, Ariz. and a member of the Gila River Indian Tribe, was sentenced here yesterday to 10 years in federal prison by U.S. District Judge Susan R. Bolton. Lewis pleaded guilty on January 22, 2008 to Use of a Firearm in a Crime of Violence.

On July 9, 2007, Lewis, along with his girlfriend and his brother, went to a neighbor's house on the Gila River Indian Reservation. The neighbor and Lewis' girlfriend became involved in an argument. Lewis joined the argument, then pulled out a .380-caliber handgun and fired one shot into the abdomen of the neighbor. Lewis dropped the gun and fled. The neighbor was taken to the hospital and was later flown to Maricopa Medical Center with life threatening injuries. The victim recovered and was released from the hospital after a six-day stay.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Gila River Police Department. The prosecution was handled by Keith E. Vercauteren, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-07-890-PHX-SRB
RELEASE NUMBER: 2008-085(Lewis)

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